

RESOLUTION No. 16-182

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mr. James D. Foster will be honored for his active volunteerism in the local community during the "2016 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation, held at the Jackson Center on March 12, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the Rosetta James Foundation was founded in December 2006. It is a 509 (a) (2) public charity and educational organization founded for the purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while promoting volunteerism and community outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Foundation's famous "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" is named in honor of Mrs. Rosetta James, a native of Akron, Alabama, in recognition of her outstanding and extraordinary dedication and service to many communities by way of active citizenship. Mrs. James has been determined to seek and search for ways to serve the underserved, minister to the incarcerated, register citizens to vote, provide for the poor and assure hope for the hopeless throughout Huntsville-Madison County for the past 35 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, James D. Foster is a graduate of Carver High School. He enrolled at Alabama A&M University and earned a degree in History and Government. He later completed two graduate degrees, one in Urban Studies/City Planning and the other in Personnel Management. He did further study in Business Management at the University of Virginia in Charlotte, Virginia.

WHEREAS, he is a retiree from the federal government following some 38-plus years of service, primarily in the Human Resources area (civilian personnel administration). He also served two years as Redstone Military Educational Officer; however, he actually began his career in the field of electronics-missile radar systems; and,

WHEREAS, his career is punctuated by a two-year tour in Korea from 1976-1978 as the Personnel Training Liaison Officer. He also served a special split assignment between Headquarters Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Virginia, and Redstone Arsenal from 1983-1988, directing and coordinating the development of three high-level employee development programs; and,

WHEREAS, Foster has been the recipient of several awards for his contributions to his professional work environment, community, civic groups and other membership organizations. He is a life member of the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, once serving as President of the local chapter; life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (served as Polemarch and on various committees); life member of Blacks In Government (BIG); and life member of NAACP; and,

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WHEREAS, he has tirelessly given of his time and support to the Huntsville Tennis Association, women's athletic programs at Alabama A&M University; various ministries at Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, where he serves as Treasurer and Acting Junior Warden of the Vestry; and many other organizations, programs and initiatives. His hobbies consist of golf, collecting old music and old music machines, and future restoration of another antique auto. He is married to the former Velma Marie Sales of Huntsville, Alabama, and they have three children: Jarvis, a son, and Deidre and Chris, daughters. He is now the proud grandfather of Landon Woodworth Foster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mr. James D. Foster and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama